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The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan

Letter dated 22 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as the representative of the country which currently chairs the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), I have the honour to transmit to you the text of the statement on Afghanistan issued by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on 19 November 2003 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of this letter and its annex could be distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under items 28 and 40 (f) of the agenda of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Rashid **Alimov**
Ambassador

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Annex to the letter dated 22 December 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization

19 November 2003
Bishkek

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan, having comprehensively discussed the situation in and around Afghanistan, note the specific progress achieved by that country's Transitional Administration with respect to State-building and the effective efforts to combat extremist forces, stress the leading role of the United Nations in international efforts to provide assistance to the Afghan people for the reconstruction of their country and declare their full support for the measures taken by the international community to strengthen stability and security in Afghanistan.

However, it should be stated that over the past two years, the country has not managed to achieve significant stabilization, reduce domestic tension and make significant progress in reviving the economy. The growing threat of narcotic drugs emanating from Afghanistan, and the unceasing activity of extremist groups are of particular concern.

The States members of CSTO, considering themselves an integral part of the international coalition against terrorism, will reinforce cooperation between their foreign affairs departments, law-enforcement agencies and special units dealing with the post-conflict reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Alongside the need to boost efforts to eradicate terrorism, it is also particularly important in the context of such efforts to eliminate the social base of terrorism and to revive and rebuild the country's economy. Possessing the necessary industrial, scientific and technological capabilities, the States members of CSTO will endeavour to pursue a coordinated approach with regard to the reconstruction of economic infrastructure in Afghanistan, beginning with facilities built with the technical assistance of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), the training of personnel, goods transit and the organization of economic and humanitarian cooperation; they will hold consultations with each other on such matters. Special attention will be paid to strengthening coordination between the States members of CSTO in efforts to combat the threat of drugs and the danger of extremism emanating from Afghanistan.

The States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization call upon other international organizations and countries of the region to support their efforts

to promote the State-building and economic reconstruction of Afghanistan and express readiness to cooperate in this regard with other international and regional structures, including the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

(*Signed*) Vartan **Oskanian**
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia

(*Signed*) Sergei N. **Martynov**
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus

(*Signed*) Kassymzhomart K. **Tokaev**
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan

(*Signed*) Askar C. **Actmatov**
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic

(*Signed*) Igor S. **Ivanov**
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

(*Signed*) Talbak **Nazarov**
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan